



## The Triumph of Victory and The Agony of Defeat mark the last game of the World Cup 2006

After over months of games, it was at last France facing off against Italy on Sunday for the final game of the World Cup 2006. Aruba, like the rest of the world, has been in the grip of World Cup Fever for the last months, and the temperature and tensions were high for this last game. Aruba has its own French and Italian contingents, embodied by the Alliance Francais and Christian Mongellaz, the French Consul to Aruba, and Italian born Enrico Pochittino, the man who founded Roma di Notte, and his son Michael and friends, respectively.

Being fellow restaurateurs and good friends, they all gathered at Don Carlos', the Italian restaurant on the water in Oranjestad, to cheer on the teams of choice. There they agonized over every missed goal, and fumed over each foul, with cries of "*Allez, allez, vit!*" often heard, as was the entreatment, "*andeamo!*"

There were quite a few moments when each delegation thought victory was certain, but were disappointed. It was a tense game, ending with a score of 1 to 1, and so went into overtime. Finally, the officials resorted to awarding the five free goal attempts that make up a sudden death decision. Italy's goalkeeper proved the better player, and so France missed one attempt while Italy made all five of theirs, for a thrilling victory that had their fans jumping with joy.

For one that is not inclined to be a spectator of the sport of soccer, watching the actual matches is rather a tedious process, but watching the fans of the teams can be quite entertaining, particularly during the World Cup!